

FACT SHEET



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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WHAT IS THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD?

Created by the State Legislature in 1967, the State Water Resources Control Board's mission is to ensure the highest reasonable quality water and divide it to achieve a balance of beneficial uses. The joint authority of water allocation and water quality protection enables the State Board to provide comprehensive protection for California's water.

The State Board consists of five full-time salaried members, each filling a different specialty position. Board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

WHAT ARE THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS?

There are nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Their mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources and ensure proper allocation and efficient and beneficial use for present and future generations. The Regional Boards recognize local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology.

Each Regional Board has nine part-time members who are also appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Regional Boards develop basin plans for their hydrologic areas, issue waste discharge permits, take enforcement action against violators and monitor water quality.

DIVISIONS OF THE STATE BOARD

There are three divisions in the State Board: Water Quality, Water Rights and Clean Water Programs.

Water Quality

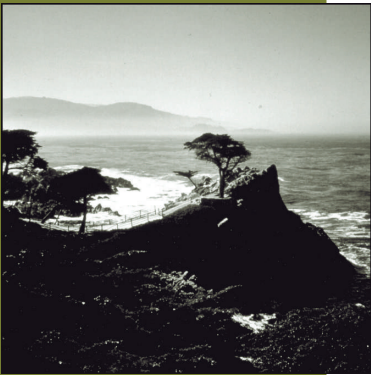
The Division of Water Quality works to protect California water through watershed management principles. Both point and nonpoint sources of pollution are targeted for application of these principles.

The State and Regional Boards' version of watershed management, the Watershed Management Initiative, attempts to achieve the water quality goals in all of California's watersheds by supporting the development of local solutions to local problems with the full participation of all affected parties.

Along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State and Regional Boards effectively direct state and federal funds to the highest priority local watershed solutions.

Water Rights

Anyone wanting to divert water from a stream or river not adjacent to his or her property must first apply for a water right permit from the State Board. The State Board issues permits for water rights specifying amounts, conditions and construction timetables for diversion and storage. Decisions reflect water availability, recognizing prior rights and flows needed to preserve instream uses, such as recreation and fish habitat,



and whether the diversion is in the public interest.

Clean Water Programs

The State Board has several programs to help local agencies and individuals prevent or clean up pollution of the state's water:

- Low interest loans are available from the State Revolving Fund for wastewater treatment, water recycling, implementation of nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution control management programs, and implementation of estuary conservation and management programs.
- Grants are available to small communities for wastewater treatment.
- Low interest loans are available from the Water Recycling Loan Program for wastewater recycling.
- Low interest loans are available from the Seawater Intrusion Control Loan Program for the control of seawater intrusion into potable water aquifers.
- Grants are available from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund to help individual tank owners clean up petroleum products that have leaked into the ground.

The task of protecting and enforcing the many uses of water, including the needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts and the environment is an ongoing challenge for the State and Regional Boards.

State Water Resources Control Board

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